

## Director's Note



## Mission



Maryland's Human Services Agency

To Our Partners and Friends:

The Department of Social Services' role as the safety net for those in economic need and vulnerable to abuse and neglect has never been as important as it has this year.

Dramatic increases in requests for assistance has challenged us to respond to the need as never before in the history of the Department.

We are so fortunate to have a community of partners including agencies, the faith community, local government, and Talbot Community Connections who reach out to bolster our efforts. Our Annual Report represents only one aspect of the family of helping resources in Talbot County. Your steadfast efforts to support our department's initiatives are greatly appreciated.

Leading and serving,

April A. Sharp, LCSW-C  
Director

*We will assist people in economic need, protect children and vulnerable adults, and promote the safety and well-being of the citizens of Talbot County.*

### Board of Directors:

James Slattery, Chair  
Frederic Petze, Vice-Chair  
Corey Pack, County Council  
Della Andrew  
Pamela Clay  
Walter Cuttler  
Carrie Gould-Kabler  
Deborah Short  
Fredia Wadley, M.D.



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE®  
ACCREDITED  
MEMBER



### Talbot County Department of Social Services

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# Annual Report Fiscal Year 2010



**April A. Sharp, Director**



Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony Brown, Lt. Governor  
Brian Wilbon, Interim Secretary

# Outcomes

Completed **198** Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations in fiscal year 2010.

Conducted **25** Family Involvement Meetings in all five trigger areas; **92%** of the FIM's were successful in diverting new foster care placements.

Exceeded the states goals of increasing the number of children in family settings and reducing the number of children in group homes. In FY10, **82%** of our children in care were maintained in family settings and **2** of our children were in group homes.

Finalized the adoption of **4** children.

Provided Adult Protective Services, Social Services to Adults and In-Home Aide Services to approximately **113** adults each month. Experienced a **26%** increase in caseload size in FY10.

**One hundred percent** of adults who were victims of abuse were not re-victimized within six months of the investigation.

Maintained **100%** payment accuracy for Food Stamp and Temporary Cash Assistance cases.

Placed **35** Temporary Cash Assistance recipients in jobs within the community.

Received Child Support payments in **92.32%** of cases; Established paternity of **99.60%** children born out of wedlock.

Served **150** fathers and parents through the Fatherhood Programs, 50 of the participants were enrolled in FY10; **73%** obtained employment; participants paid \$383,708 in child support; both the enrollment and employment goals set by DHR for FY10 were met.

Provided **4,848** hours in staff training opportunities in skill building, policy and procedure, and leadership.

Agency volunteers contributed **2,460** hours of assistance to customers and agency programs.

# Financial Data

## Talbot County Department of Social Services Operating Funds Fiscal Year 2010

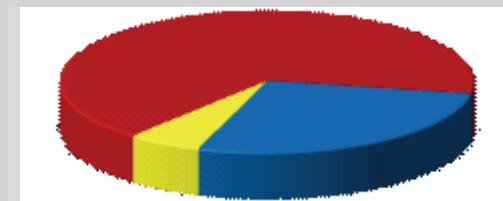
Operations  
\$4,150,055



Grants/Local  
Funds/Special Funds  
\$1,088,164

## Talbot County Department of Social Services Public Assistance Funds Fiscal Year 2010

Food Stamps  
\$4,051,759



Foster Care  
\$1,664,190

Temporary  
Cash  
Assistance  
\$348,102

# Partnerships

Provided sixteen weeks of Equine-Assisted mental health therapy for five early teen female survivors of child sexual abuse. Participants showed significant improvement in their sense of competency and self esteem.

Initiated the Medicaid Co-Pay program with Shore Health Systems which assists patients who are uninsured to see if they are eligible for federal funded medical assistance.

Hosted Back to School Resource Fair, distributing 381 book bags with school supplies to children and provided resource information to their parents or caregivers.

Participated in the 11th Annual Multi-Cultural Festival with our 3rd Annual Party-in-the-Park Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Event.

Continued Workforce Development Initiatives with the Department of Labor and Licensing, the Regulation and Workforce Investment Board, and the Maryland RISE Program.

Maintained partnership with Shore Health System and continued Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center's Multi-Disciplinary Team response to reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

Enhanced Child Support outcomes through enriched Fatherhood Programs that work collaboratively with local employers, colleges, agencies, and correctional facilities.

Reviewed and assessed safety and the availability of resources for vulnerable adults in Adult Public Guardianship Review Board and Adult Protective Services Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings.